



GARRISON

**Welcome,
Prospective
Wildcats!**

School Preview SY24-25

Welcome to Garrison!



We are grateful for your interest in Garrison, and excited to get to know you and your child. The information that follows shares a bit of our school story - where we've come from, where we are now, and where we're going. We hope you'll join our journey as we grow into the school community we all want for our children, where every Wildcat is known, and loved, and thrives.

Warmly, Principal Kip & AP Harris



Brigham Kiplinger

Principal & current
Wildcat Parent



Joherra Harris

Assistant Principal &
former parent

A Brief Garrison History



We know where we're going
We know where we're from

- Bob Marley, *Exodus*

Where We've Come From



Camp Barker
Freedman's Village was home from 1862-1864 to thousands of African Americans "contrabands" who liberated themselves. The Camp Barker site is now our campus on S St NW.

Our Abolitionist Namesake & Legacy



- William Lloyd Garrison was a leading abolitionist and published *The Liberator* newspaper from 1830-1865
- Garrison Elementary School was founded in the early 1900s and the current building was built in the 1960s
- Our fifth graders are now creating a permanent, museum-quality Garrison history exhibit with [Story of our Schools](#) to open in the Fall!



Our Community: Shaw/Logan Circle/U St



Union Col. Robert
Gould Shaw of the
Mass 54th



Union Gen.
John A. Logan

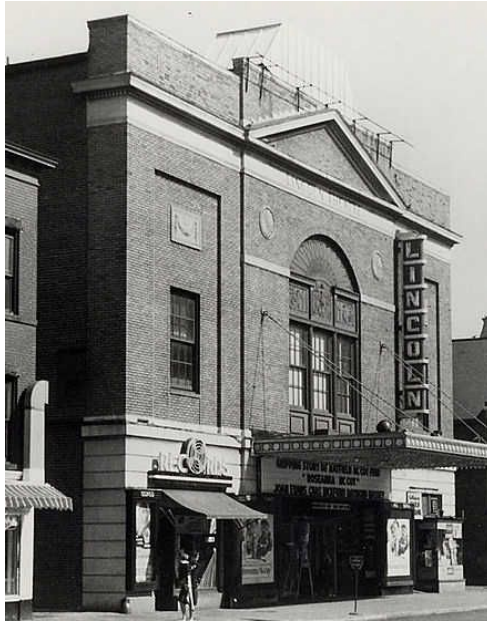


Pearl Bailey
named U St
“Black Broadway”

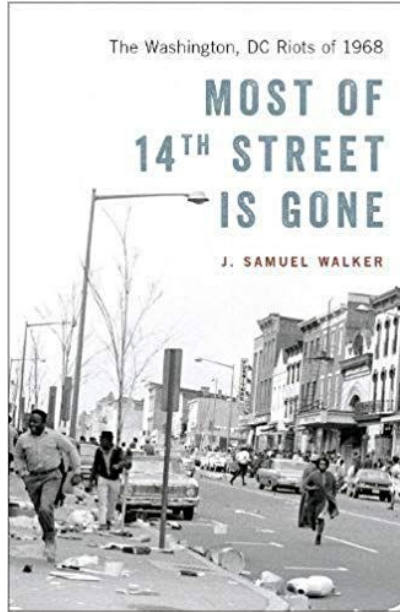


Duke Ellington
lived at 13th & T

Cycles of demographic change, with Garrison as a community constant...



1920s: Black Broadway
on U St



1968: Uprising
follows MLK's
assassination



1980s: growth of Latin
American Community



2000s: Gentrification &
Don't Mute DC
movement

Where We Are Now: Celebrations



- Garrison is among DC's fastest growing schools
 - Ranked by OSSE among Top 5 ES in all of DC for past two years (on 2023 & 2024 SRCs)!
 - >50% enrollment growth over the past 7 yrs
 - Bold Performance School award winner from EmpowerK12 three times since 2019!
 - Host DCPS early literacy teaching "lab site"

Where We Are Now: Challenges



- We work hard every day with urgency to close our internal “opportunity gaps” and build kindred community across difference to ensure **every** Wildcat thrives. This urgency has only increased since the pandemic and as gentrification continues to impact our families.

Where we're going: Our Vision



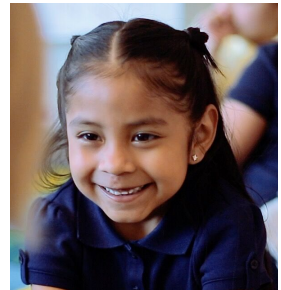
- *Every Garrison Wildcat feels loved, challenged, and prepared to thrive.*
- We strive to build an **intentionally-diverse, equitable, inclusive** community that knows and loves each other across difference, and cares for **every** Wildcat as their own.

How we'll reach our school vision



Our top school priorities:

1. Wellbeing & connection
2. Abolitionist community
3. Joyful, rigorous learning



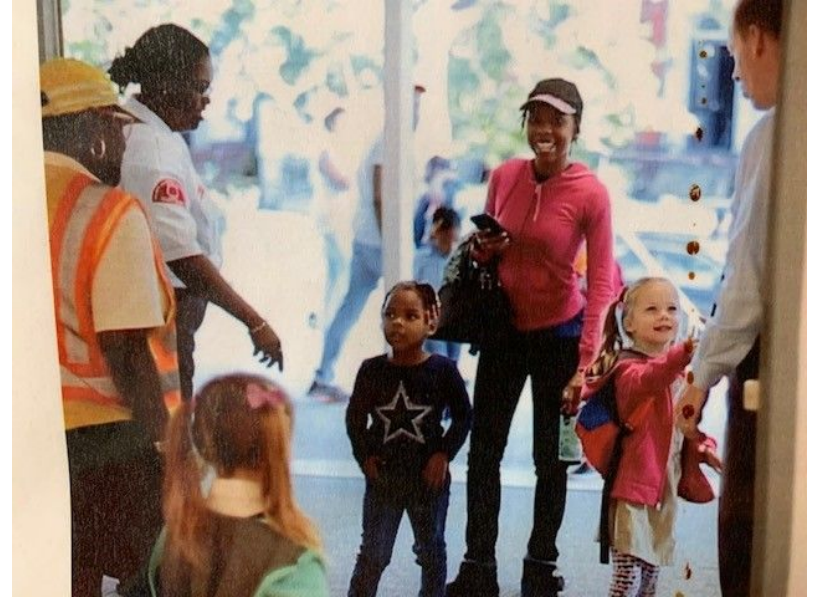
How you can help reach our vision



What we expect from our families:

1. **Attendance** - *every day, on time*
2. **Commitment** - *come and stay*
3. **Partnership** - *connect, learn, partner, and grow together*

A school day in the life of a Wildcat



Students arrive at 8:15 each morning and are warmly greeted at the entry doors before walking to class.

Supporting Whole Child Wellbeing



Our classroom environment and curriculum support children's social-emotional learning and wellbeing

A peek inside a Garrison PK classroom

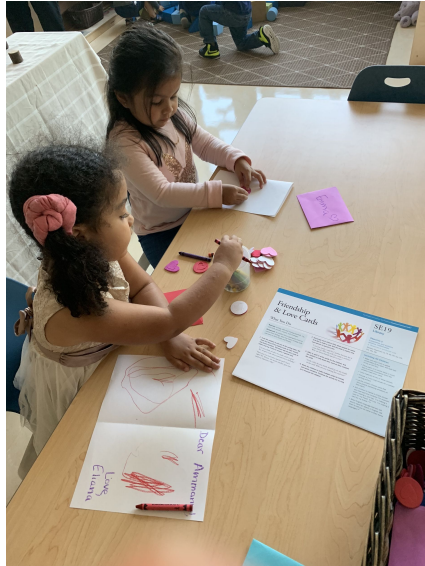


Our big, bright classrooms include a gathering place, tables, and centers for thematic play-based learning

Pre-K Wildcats spend their days reading...



...and writing



...and counting



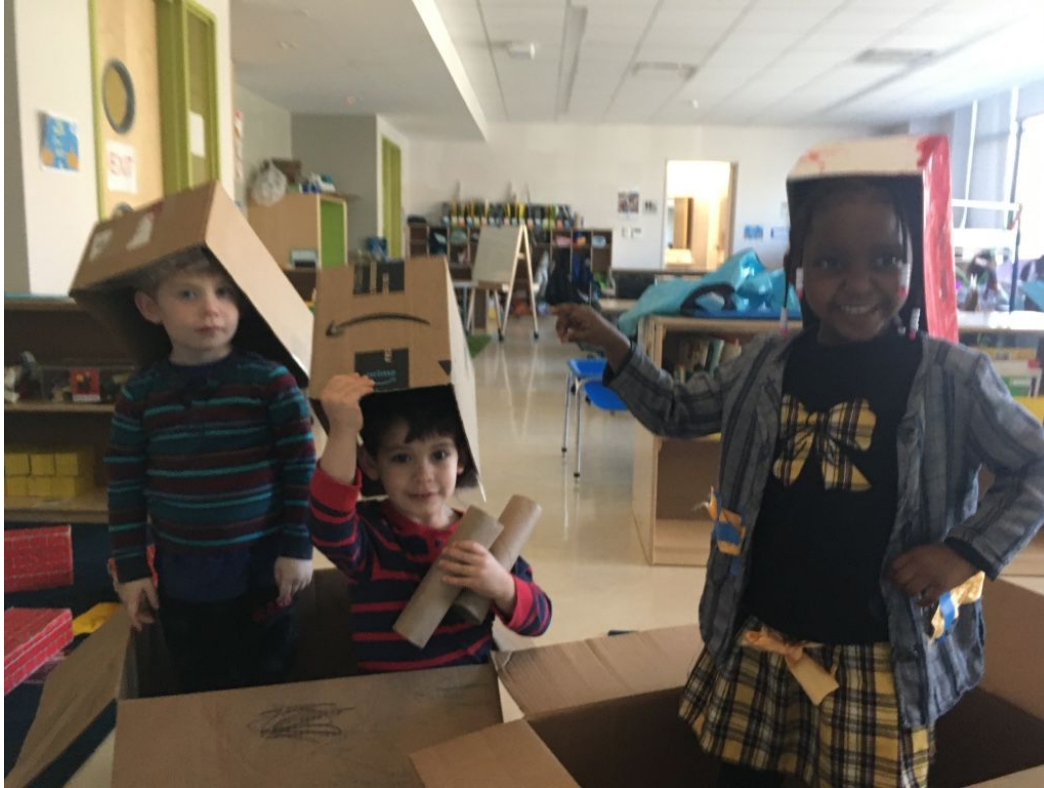
...and building



...and tinkering



...and imagining



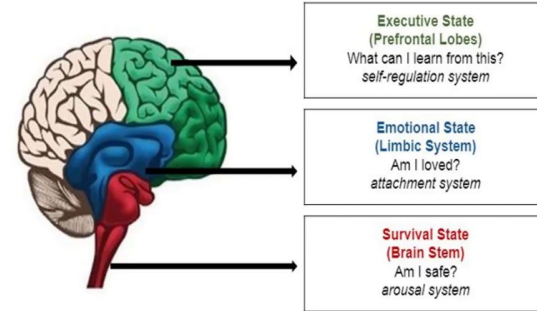
...and making friends.



Whole Child Wildcat Wellbeing



- Social-emotional learning in the context of loving relationships
- (Mis)behavior is communication
 - Find & teach missing skill/unmet need
 - Modeling, practice, logical consequences
- Wholechildmodel.org: CARE, Boost, etc.
- What you'll see: Strong Start, visual routines, classroom jobs, centering space, etc.
- Restorative practices: Structured Recess, R-ISS



We hope you'll join our school family!



FAQs: Frequently-Asked Questions



- **Class size & ratio?** PK3: 16 students & 2 adults; PK4: 20 students & 2 adults; K-5: 18-25 students & 1-2 teachers
- **Curriculum:** Rigorous knowledge-building units by grade
- **Meals:** Eaten in the classroom (PK) & Commons (K-5), **free** breakfast & lunch, veggie options, healthy & tasty!
- **Recess:** twice a day, ~35 (K-5) to 60 (PK) minutes total
- **Rest time (ECE):** PK3 ~90 min, PK4 ~60 min (on cots)
- **Specials (daily):** Art, Music, & Library (PK), plus PE (K-5)
- **Before-care:** 7:00-8:15am, run by Garrison staff for fee
- **After-school** 3:15-6:00; Apollo After School (PK/K), Garrison (Gr 1), & Kid Power (Gr 1-5), plus community partners & enrichment/clubs

Opportunities to learn more



- Explore our website at garrisonelementary.org
- Follow us on Instagram [@garrisonelementaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/garrisonelementaryschool)
- Upcoming **open house & tours** (Thursdays 8:30-9:30am)
 - January 9, February 6, April 3
- To chat with a current parent: PTO@garrisonelementary.org
- Enrollment questions: Elliott.Brown@k12.dc.gov or call the Garrison office (se habla español)
- Special Education POC: Kristen.Brown@k12.dc.gov
- General questions: AP Harris (Joherra.Harris@k12.dc.gov) or Principal Kip (Brigham.Kiplinger@k12.dc.gov)
- Thank you for your time and interest in Garrison!